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A6H HJL  
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(56) Documents Cited

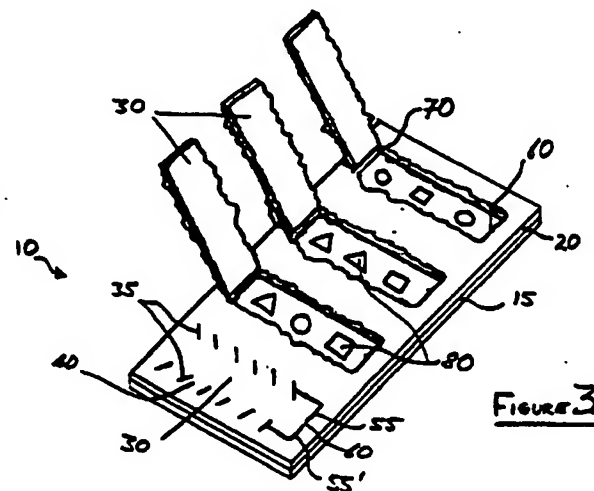
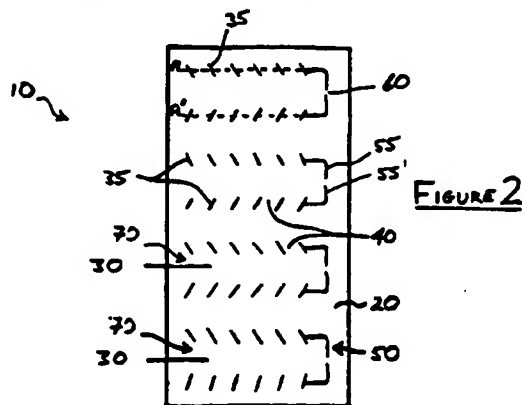
GB 2133993 A US 4513993 A

(58) Field of Search

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(54) Gaming ticket

(57) A gaming ticket has one or more windows 30, the windows being defined by lines of weakness which tear unevenly as the window is opened to reveal tampering. In a preferred embodiment, the lines of weakness comprise perforations 35 separated by substantial webs 40, the perforations being elongate slits which lie transverse the line of weakness.



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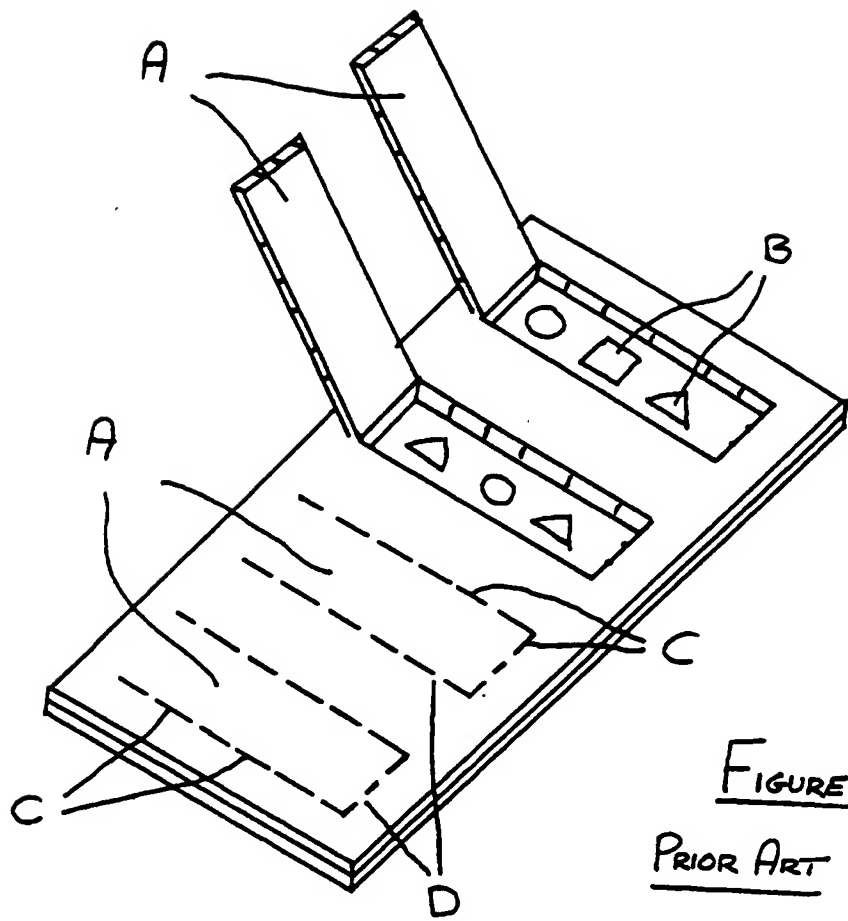
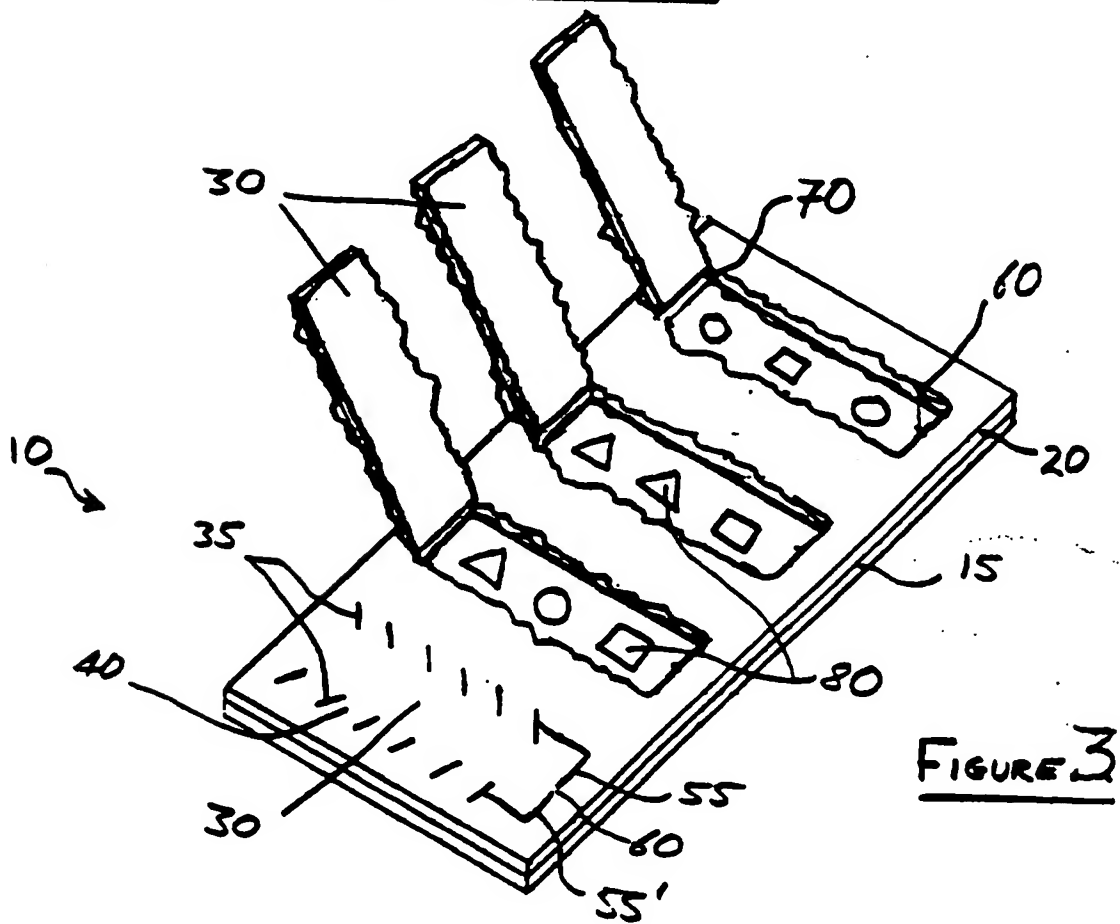
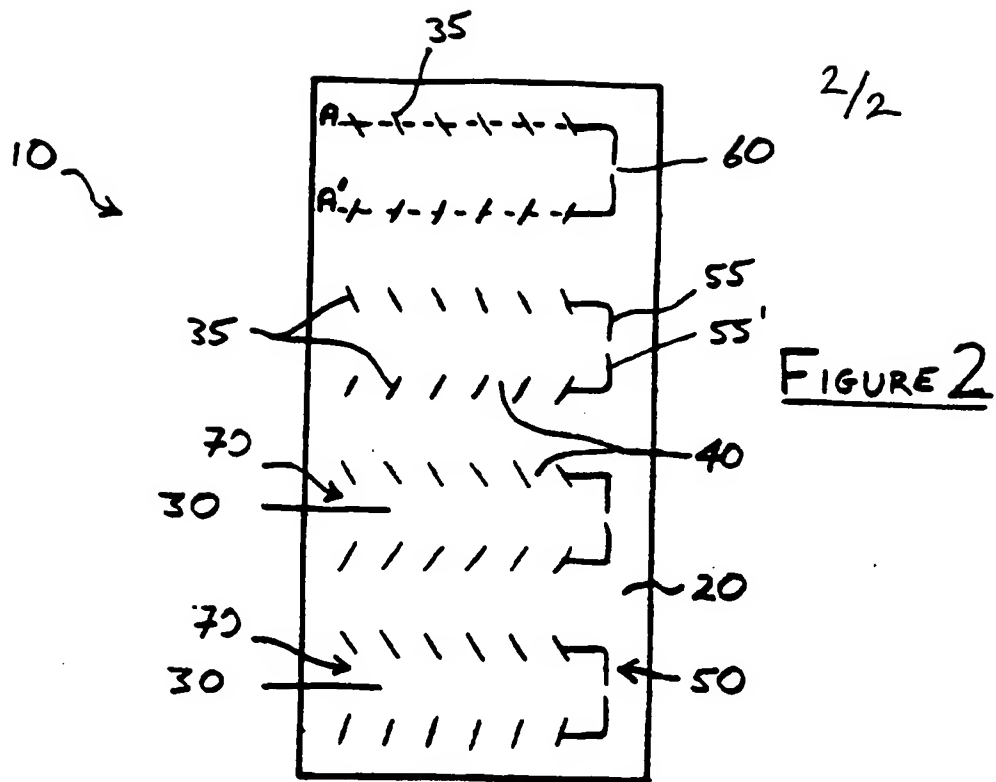


FIGURE 1

PRIOR ART



GAMING TICKET

5           The present invention relates to the field of gaming tickets. More specifically, the present invention relates to the field of gaming tickets which have two face-to-face plies (2 ply) and one or more windows in one ply which obscure indicia on the other ply.

10

Gaming tickets of the type described above are known and an example of a prior art ticket is illustrated in Figure 1. These gaming tickets often have several windows A, each window A obscuring a number of indicia B. Opening  
15 of each window permitting the purchaser to compare the indicia with pre-determined "winning" indicia, often identified on the outside of the ticket.

In general, the windows A in the prior art gaming cards are defined by elongate perforations C separated by minimal webs D. The elongate  
20 perforations A are co-linear with the perimeter of the window they define. The window is opened by breaking the minimal webs.

Prior art gaming cards are subject to tampering. Once a window has been opened, the only substantial damage to the gaming ticket is the broken  
25 web between adjacent perforations. These webs are conventionally insubstantial and serve solely to maintain the window closed prior to use. However, after use, it is relatively easy to close over the window and reseal it with, for example, adhesive. Once a window has been resealed, it is not apparent that the ticket has ever been used. It requires careful visual inspection to determine  
30 that the insubstantial webs have been broken. Accordingly, an unscrupulous

vendor/purchaser may pass a non-winning, resealed gaming ticket on to a second purchaser, passing it off as new.

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It is an object of the present invention to provide a gaming ticket in which tampering is apparent to a prospective purchaser.

10       Accordingly, in one aspect the present invention provides a gaming ticket having one or more windows, the windows being defined by lines of weakness which tear unevenly as the window is opened to reveal tampering.

15       Preferably, the lines of weakness comprise perforations separated by substantial webs, the perforations being elongate slits which lie transverse the line of weakness.

20       An embodiments of the present invention will be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a prior art gaming ticket;

25       Figure 2 is plan view of an unopened gaming card in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 3 is a perspective view of an opened gaming card.

A gaming ticket in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention is shown generally at 10 in Figures 2 and 3. The gaming ticket  
5 comprises lower ply 15 and upper ply 20. Upper ply 20 is provided with a plurality of windows 30 which, prior to opening (Figure 2), obscure indicia on lower ply 15.

Each window 30 is defined by a line of weakness (indicated by dashed  
10 line A-A' in Figure 2) which forms three sides of a rectangle. The line of weakness is formed by a plurality of perforations 35. Adjacent perforation are separated by a substantial web 40. The perforations on the long sides of the generally rectangular window 30 are in the form of elongate slits which lie generally transverse the line of weakness. Preferably, the elongate slits lie at  
15 an angle of between 20° and 70° with respect to the line of weakness.

One of the short side 50 of the generally rectangular window 30 comprises a pair of elongate perforations 55 and 55' aligned along the line of weakness. Perforations 55 and 55' are separated by a web 60 which is less  
20 substantial than webs 40. The short side 70 (opposite short side 50) has no perforations.

In use, windows 30 are opened by tearing the perforations along the line of weakness. As will be apparent, web 60, being less substantial than webs 40,  
25 will likely be the first web to tear. The tearing of short side 50 permits the user to grip the window and continue the tear along the two long sides of the line of weakness. Short side 70, having no perforations, will inhibit the tearing of the window and promote folding of the open window (Figure 3). Opening of windows 30 reveals the previously obscured indicia 80 on lower ply 15.

Tearing of substantial webs 40 results in windows 30 having uneven, ragged edges, making it more difficult for a user to reseal the windows and return the gaming ticket to its former visual state. The appearance of the ticket will be marred by the uneven tearing.

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Preferably, the upper and lower ply are formed from paperboard. However, as will be apparent, other materials such as plastic or thin metallic sheeting may also be used. The upper and lower ply need not necessarily be formed from the same material.

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The present invention has been described with reference to a gaming ticket having windows defined by a line of weakness formed by a plurality of perforations. However, it is contemplated that the line of weakness need not necessarily be formed from perforations, but may be formed from a plurality of score marks or areas of upper ply having reduced thickness.

15

As will also be apparent, the number of windows and type of indicia on the gaming ticket are not particularly limited and will depend on the type of game to be played.

20

The present invention has been described with reference to one particular embodiment. Variants and modifications of this embodiment will be apparent upon reading this disclosure. Accordingly, the scope of the present invention should only be limited to that defined in the claims appended hereto.

CLAIMS

1. A gaming ticket having one or more windows, the windows being defined by lines of weakness which tear unevenly as the window is opened to reveal tampering.
2. A gaming ticket as defined in claim 1, wherein the lines of weakness comprise perforations separated by substantial webs.
3. A gaming ticket as defined in claim 2, wherein the perforations are elongate slits.
4. A gaming ticket as defined in claim 3, wherein the elongate slits lie transverse the line of weakness.
5. A gaming ticket as defined in claim 4, wherein the elongate slits lie at an angle of between 20° and 70° with respect to the line of weakness.
6. A gaming ticket as defined in claim 1, wherein each window is substantially rectangular.
7. A gaming ticket as defined in claim 6, wherein the two long sides of the rectangle comprise elongate perforations which lie transverse the line of weakness, adjacent perforations being separated by a substantial web.



8. A gaming ticket as defined in claim 6 or claim 7, wherein one of the short edges comprises a pair of elongate perforations separated by a web, the elongate perforations of said pair being substantially aligned with the line of weakness.

5

9. A gaming ticket substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 9722845.6  
Claims searched: 1 to 9

Examiner: Alan Blunt  
Date of search: 12 February 1998

**Patents Act 1977**  
**Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.P): A6H (HJL); B6A (AL)

Int Cl (Ed.6): A63F 3/06; B42D 15/00

Other:

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB2133993A (SCHWEGLER) - whole document	1 to 9
X	US4513993 (BROWN) - whole document	1

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step  
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.  
& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.  
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.  
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.